

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A routing processor, comprising:

a data entry identifying a connection from an originating client as a multi-link connection, the data entry being available once the originating client has established a first link with a terminating client through a selected communication device;

a buffer adapted to store the data entry;

a circuit adapted to search the buffer for the data entry for the originating client responsive to each subsequent communication link set-up request from the originating client and, if the data entry is found, to direct routing of all subsequent communication links from the originating client to the terminating client using the selected communication device.

2. The routing processor of claim 1 wherein the data entry is adapted to identify multi-link protocol data of a first link and wherein the circuit identifies the originating client as the source of the first link.

3. The routing processor of claim 1 wherein the circuit is adapted to direct routing of all connections from the originating client to the terminating client through the selected communication device by transmitting a common channel signaling message to a second switch that identifies the transmission facility corresponding to the selected communication device.

4. The routing processor of claim 1 wherein the circuit is adapted to direct routing of all connections from the originating client to the terminating client through the selected communication device by transmitting a message to a server that identifies the originating client as a source of multi-link connections.

5. The routing processor of claim 1 wherein the data entry further identifies a typical number of links for the multi-link connections from the originating client and wherein the circuit is adapted to reserve a typical number of timeslots on the transmission facility serving the selected terminating device coupled to the terminating client.

6. The routing processor of claim 1 wherein the circuit is adapted to select a communication device having the typical number of timeslots available on its corresponding transmission facility as the selected communication device to service the multi-link connection.

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